

"American labor (as expressed at the A. F. of L. convention) is opposed to class government" Editorial in Cleveland Press. Yep, it's opposed to government of the laboring class, but not to government of the capitalist class.

THE TOLLER

WE CAN'T SEE IT
"Once more red murder runs riot in Kiev. Once more the miserable city cowers under the lash of the masters (Bolsheviks) who know no mercy. The imagination falters before the contemplation of what must be happening in Kiev today." From editorial in Cleveland Plain Dealer. Nothing the matter with YOUR imagination old scout.

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From Our Petrograd Correspondent.

Petrograd, April 15, 1920.

My Dear Friends:—
I could write you now about five volumes of 700 pages each, if it only be possible to deliver them to you. In Russia indeed is a workers' and peasants' government, but the long war is terrible destroying the national wealth and tiring out the nation. The only thing that can save Russia is the Soviet form of government and the necessary means of production granted to it, regardless of where they come from. The Soviet government, as yet, is not the exponent and the apparatus to realize the Communist principle if it is not led and controlled by a Communist Party. The Communist Party and the Soviet government are two different things in the same space and time. More yet: the Soviet government will not be a Communist government if the International proletarian movement will not grow and force its governments to back down economically as they were forced to back down militarily. Unless this takes place there will be not only no Communism in Russia, but there will be nothing. People will die out thru starvation and the complete collapse of civilization will follow not only in Russia but in all capitalistic countries. The capitalist class would degrade the workers in a state of slavery. Therefore work with united forces for International Communism.
In Petrograd I met comrade Sinovye, who recently went through an operation for appendicitis, but is recovering fast. The Lett, Peters, who was branded by the American bourgeoisie press as the Bolshevik butcher because he was the extraordinary commissaire to combat counterrevolution, was not killed by a bomb, as reported, but occupies a high post in Caucasus. I have also met other leaders of the revolution, for instance, Radek, Bucharin and Maxim Gorky. Radek is a very active and attractive individual. Bucharin is very absent minded and usually forgets his own comfort. If someone will not put him on his coat, he will leave it and go without. So once I am told, going from Moscow to Petrograd he lost his overcoat in this manner and was supplied another. I heard Maxim Gorky in the Petrograd Soviet session. That great author is a poor speaker. Concerning the views of Bolshevism held by you and I, I wish to say that we were the best Bolsheviks, our views conform with those of Lenin.
Yours for the triumph of the working class
A.B. C.

Slow Progress in Communist Trial.

CHICAGO.—Of six hundred men thus far questioned as prospective jurors in the trial of twenty-four members of the Communist Labor Party, charged with criminal syndicalism and conspiracy to advocate the overthrow of the government by force, only eight have proven acceptable to both sides, and have been sworn in. The state has exhausted 63 of its 200 peremptory challenges; the defense sixty-four.
The trial began on May 10th and is completing its sixth week.

I. W. W. POET IS FREE.

CHICAGO.—Charles Ashleigh, poet of the working-class, is at liberty again, after having served eighteen months in the Federal Penitentiary at Leavenworth, to which he was convicted with ninety-five other I. W. W. His release on bail was obtained by the American Freedom Foundation which is working for immediate release of all political prisoners and for restoration of American political and civil liberty.
Whether Ashleigh will remain free, or whether he will go back to serve out the rest of his ten-year sentence, will depend upon whether or not the appeal of the I. W. W. will be sustained. Argument took place here June 15, Attorney Otto Christensen acting as counsel for defense. It may be several months before the decision is handed down.
Ashleigh left behind him at Leavenworth about 150 political prisoners. Some fifty of these are I. W. W. convicted in Chicago; thirty-seven, I. W. W. convicted at Sacramento; twenty-seven, I. W. W. imprisoned as a result of the famous "Wichita indictment". Four more I. W. W. from San Francisco are in the number. The others

are members of the Working Class Union of Oklahoma; Kansas City Communists; the Magon brothers; Brent Down Allinson and Jaeger, conscientious objectors. All of these men are political prisoners still in jail as a result of war time emergency legislation.

COMMUNIST CASES ARE NOLLED.

ROCKFORD, ILL.—Upon motion of State's Attorney William Johnson in the local circuit court, the indictments against Mrs. Christine Person and Peter Anderson, alias Martell, were nolle prossed and by agreement Karl Lind was released from the county jail on his own recognizance.

They were three of 13 who were indicted by the county grand jury here on the charge of violating the Illinois anti-sedition statute. Mrs. Person, Lind and Anderson were members of the Communist Labor Party of America and were among the nearly 200 persons who were scooped up here in the federal raid on Jan. 2.

Mrs. Person is in a critical condition suffering from tuberculosis. The Persons have three children.

Peter Anderson and Karl Lind have been in the county jail since Jan. 2.

SOVIETS ARE LENIENT OF MIS-

Lillian Blake ATTENTION

Please send your address to
The Toller, We have a communication for you.—Editor.

THE COMMUNIST CALL TO THE WORKERS.

We communists say to the workers: "Many thorns lie in our path, but we must, without losing our courage, go forward. The great Revolution which has turned the entire old world upside down, cannot run altogether smoothly, one cannot accomplish it with kid gloves on: it is being born in pain. These pains must be endured, patiently, its purgatory must be endured, in order, finally, to get free of the iron vise of capitalistic slavery."
The Menshevik, Social Revolutionaries, Social Democrats stand aloof and look on, criticise the mistakes and failures, and draw from them this conclusion: let us turn back, let us give everything back to the bourgeoisie, and let us modestly demand reasonable portions in our capitalist stable!



Playing His True Part.

The United States Chamber of Profiteers.

Bill Smith.
Do you remember when Mitch Palmer, after getting some millions of dollars from a subservient Congress, organized his "Flying Squadrons" to chase down the profiteers—and thus kick the lining out of the old H. C. L.—do you remember that, boys? Sure. Do you remember how these profiteers then left the country in ship loads to dodge Mitch—and how he filled jails with those that fell into his remorseless clutches—and how the H. C. L. dropped so rapidly that one grew dizzy watching it—do you remember that, too, boys? Neither do we.
But one must not be too hard on Mitch for these profiteers are very elusive—they keep under cover. It is as hard to find one as it is to find the elephant at a circus. But if Palmer really wanted to get at the bottom of this profiteering—what a golden opportunity he lost just recently! Here assembled at Atlantic City in April an aggregation which calls itself the U. S. Chamber of Commerce. Now if he had followed the tactics he pursued in the East, of raiding night schools, where foreigners were trying to improve their education, and have thrown a cordon of his sleuths around this Atlantic City assembly—and then arrested the whole bunch—without warrant or explanation—and slammed them into widely separated jails with out privilege of bail,—and then started an investigation, just one half as drastic as he did with the foreigners,—as to what and who were back of these people;—holy gee! boys, wouldn't there be a smell!
Commerce means—"Barter, Trade and Traffic."
Thus the most stupid person can readily see where to look for the profiteer. After the production of a commodity, no matter whether mechanical or agriculture,—it then enters the domain of Commerce—the Kingdom of the Profiteers. Then the Public commences to get it in the neck! It is in this Kingdom of the Profiteers, that 300 percent from farmer to consumer is filched—the 600 per cent from cattle

percent from miner to consumer is embezzled—and so on down the long line of these protected thieves!
What could be more appropriate let us ask,—than that Mercury, god of Commerce, is also patron deity of all the Thieves of the World!
This ancient deity stuff takes us back to remote ages—and it recalls events in the gray centuries which Seti held down the Pharaoh job in Egypt. Some "lean years" occurred in his reign and the grand forefathers of our present profiteers got busy and "manipulated" the markets until conditions were very sore indeed. Seti's grand steward snoped around and took a census of these fine gentlemen and they were all invited to one of these little "informal suppers." History is silent as to the details of that supper, but it is supposed that they damned labor in general,—were agin the unions etc. etc. We know though that Seti was a rough old scout and that the name of not one who was around that festal board could be found in the next years city directory!
What is this Chamber of Commerce of the United States?
It is the logical successor to the old Manufacturers and Merchants Association, of infamous memory, whose headquarters were at Indianapolis, and was captained by the late D. M. Farry. It punished strike breakers and did all in its power to throttle labor when ever the opportunity occurred.
Standing practically in the same position is this new born ogre of capitalism with its high sounding name.
It is a self created institution, having had its accouchment in Washington, D. C., in April 1912. It now claims a membership of 660,000, with Joseph H. Deere of Chicago as its executive head.
It is interesting to note the "Purposes" which it claims made its creation necessary. Remember that its permanent headquarters are in that great manufacturing city of Washington, D. C. Chief among its "purposes", it says—"When debatable policies affecting our National Commerce"—they must butt in, and "confer alike with the executive and Legislative branches of the government etc." in order to "make all business legislation constructive."
All of which means, in plain language, that they have squatted there to intimidate and coerce legislation. They hold over these timid congressmen that power of terror that the Popes were wont to launch at servile kings—the excommunication and the interdict. Woe unto that congressman that does not pay heed to the "whispers from the throne"! He may as well dig his little hole in the ground and climb in!
To show how well this combination has succeeded in throttling free legislation we present the following letter from Ex-Senator Robert F. Pettigrew of South Dakota.
Carl D. Thompson, author and secretary of the Public Ownership League, with offices in Chicago, wrote United States Senator R. F. Pettigrew, regarding the advisability of petitioning Congress at Washington, and received the following interesting reply:
Your petition should not run to the government. Your petition should be presented, if you want the fun of getting up a petition, to the real government, no longer invisible located in Washington City. The heads of the great industrial and financial institutions have organized the United States Chamber of Commerce. It is a corporation; they are all corporations; we are a government of, for and by the corporations. Our feudal lords are artificial persons without human sympathy. Their attorneys are in Washington in the House and Senate; 76 senators out of 96 are lawyers; 310 out of 440 members of Congress are lawyers. These lawyers are the attorneys for the great financial and industrial combinations which are the real government of the United States, and, of course, you know how useless it would be to appeal to the real government and how silly it is to present anything to their attorneys.
R. F. PETTIGREW.
This U. S. Chamber of Peddlers have yearly gab fest, their last orgy being

Judge and Jury Establish Mob Rule in Cincinnati

By O. Ruchtaeschel

The case of the Communist Labor Party of Cincinnati against the Robert Bently Post of the American Legion for damages done to its headquarters last November, was concluded in court there last week. The jury's verdict was in favor of the defendants. The case will not be appealed. Jos. W. Sharts was the attorney for the plaintiff. The Post was represented by 22 attorneys.
Out of the immense material developed from this trial, we can quote only a very small part of it.
The defendants admitted guilt, but made as excuse for their crimes, that their patriotic fervor was avanced, which prompted them, to destroy the literature, which they claimed was seditious.
The examination of the witnesses brought forth the fact, that the defendants had only a superficial knowledge of the contents of the literature destroyed and that the ring leader Cooper, had a conversation "over the telephone" with the federal authorities, who stated, there was no law which prohibited the printing and distribution of that literature.
In the proceedings of the trial the counsel for the defense tried in vain to prove that the platform of the C. L. P. preaches violence.
The counsel for the defense read that "into" the platform and claimed their interpretation of the platform was absolutely correct. To prove their contention, they brought in everything and anything under the sun.
If attorney Jos. Sharts for the plaintiff made the attempt to go to the bottom of it, Colston, counsel for the defense objected to it. The manner in which he objected and was sustained by the presiding judge showed the one sidedness of the proceedings. We cite here only two cases: Graydon for the defense brought in the history of the prison ship of Dorset, England.
About two hundred years ago, seven agriculture workers, acting as a committee to ask for higher wages, were charged with conspiracy, found guilty and sentenced to deportation.
A "defective" photograph of a Russian newspaper was admitted as evidence.
But as Sharts for the plaintiff talked about the history of Cincinnati to prove his side, objections were sustained.
A photograph, showing the destruction in our office, made on the 19th of November, the very morning after the raid, was declared "as arranged". After long and tedious proceedings the hearing of the witnesses was finished.
One conspicuous fact impressed itself to the audience.
The counsel, ignorant of economic science, tried to hide this fact by boisterous language and cheap, silly remarks alleged to be witty. The antics of the members of the American Legion reminded us of the behavior of

the "Junkers" in the German Reichstag.
Sharts, as counsel for the plaintiff had the opening speech. In a quite and logical manner he drew the parallel in history between the abolitionists and the Communist Labor Party.
Colston for the defense followed with a boisterous talk for "democracy" which culminated in the remark: Ah, Kar Marx is a back number!
These ignoramuses had the audacity to declare economic science as "bunk." Colston was followed by Graydon for the defense. He tried to appear to be accentuated by a love for the law of the land. His first statement was, that the literature destroyed had no value as property, because it was outlawed.
(Dear reader mark well, the federal authorities declared that literature legal, then counsel for the defense admits, that the American Legion is above the federal government.)
He continued to talk about conspiracy, violence, dictatorship by a minority, burglars tools, gambling devices, confiscation of "all" the property a man or woman possesses, industrial production abolished, general strike unlawful, the prison ship of Dorset, England, the decree of six hours work in Russia, whilst the workers are forced to work 16 hours and abusive statements about the communist party.
Comrade Jos. Sharts made the finishing speech, which was a marvelous, eloquent and logical one. We would do an injustice to it, to cite only fragments.
The weight of his arguments impressed the audience and was propaganda of great value.
Sharts finished with the words to the jury, that the issue is: if the laws of the land are to be vindicated, or a group of unscrupulous men shall decide what we are allowed to write and read.
On the 16th of June the court reconvened to hear the charge of the judge to the jury.
To do justice to the readers of The Toller, this charge ought to be in full here. But the crux of the question is this: While Judge Gusweiler stated plainly that according to law the members of the American Legion had no right to enter the place, he came around this point by saying, that they could destroy the literature, if they deemed it seditious.
By doing this, he transferred the responsibility and power to act from the constituted federal authorities to any irresponsible, unscrupulous person or mob.
As a matter of course, we did not expect justice before a capitalist court, but how about the anarchists of the John Most type, ain't they ashamed of their new increase?
The fourth and fifth amendments of the constitution are thrown on the scrap heap.

Soviet Troops are Lenient.

BERLIN, May 20.—(By Mail). In today's "Freiheit" is prominently displayed an army order issued to all the Russian Soviet troops engaged in resisting the Polish invasion. The order, which is dated May 13, and signed by Minister of War Trotsky, reads as follows:
"Under all circumstances are prisoners and wounded men to be treated as opponents who are entitled to protection.
"If the Polish White Guards com-

mit massacres and execute not only communists, but every Russian who falls into their hands, Soviet Russia will hold the ruling classes and not the Polish workers responsible for this.
"All the Polish crimes deserve but one answer: Vigorous attacks upon the Polish White Guards."
The Freiheit comments upon the order by saying that "Russia feels strong enough not to retaliate upon misguided Polish workers for the crimes of adventurers."

International Labor Picnic
under auspices of
THE WORKERS DEFENSE LEAGUE
SUNDAY, JUNE 27th, 1920
Frank's Farm Sherbody Hill
WOOSTER AVENUE EXTENSION AKRON, O.
Speaker: Jacob Morgolis
Attorney for U. S. Steel Workers. A man with a message for the Workers.
Bring your family and enjoy the day.
MUSIC AND DANCING. — REFRESHMENTS.